Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANTANA 00888 191329Z POSS DUPE
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
NASA-01 OMB-01 /066 W
----------040674 211252Z /14
R 181513Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 533
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 888

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP,PBOR, SOPN, MA, NK, US
SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN ATTACKS ON US

REF: A) ANT 570 AND PREVIOUS; B) ANT 837; C) 77 ANT 2133 AND
TRANSMITAL SLIP OF 11/25/77 FORWARDING TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE
209 FROM EMBASSY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY

1. SUMMARY: I INFORMED MINISTER OF INFORMATION DIRECTLY
ON MAY 11 THAT WE WERE DISTURBED AT SEEING US POLICY ON KOREA
DESCRIBED TO THE MALAGASY POPULATION EXCLUSIVELY IN NORTH KOREAN
TERMS. WE ALSO INVITED MINISTER OR ONE OF HIS AIDES TO VISIT
US ON IV GRANT AND OFFERED HIM THE ASSISTANCE OF OUR OWN INFORMATION
FACILITIES IN ANTANANARIVO FOR HIS ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY TO
PROMOTE IN THE MALAGASY POPULATION A GOOD KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING
OF THE US AND ITS POLICIES.END SUMMARY.

2. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY CALL ON MINISTER OF INFORMATION GEORGES
RUPHIN ON MAY 11 (REF B) TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THE WRITTEN
AND ORAL ATTACKS ON THE US MADE BY THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN
ANTANANARIVO AND THEIR DIFUSSION THROUGH THE OFFICIAL MEDIA. I TOLD
HIM THAT WE SAW MUCH THAT WAS UNPLEASANT TO US IN THE LOCAL MEDIA
BUT THAT THIS DID NOT DISTURB US FOR WE BELIEVED IN LIBERTY OF
THE PRESS AND WERE USED TO SEEING HARSH CRITICISMS OF THE US AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANTANA 00888 191329Z POSS DUPE

ITS POLICIES RIGHT AT HOME. FURTHERMORE WE UNDERSTOOD THAT IN
VIEW OF MADAGASCAR'S TOUS AZIMUTS POLICY WE HAD TO EXPECT THAT
THE OFFICIAL MEDIA WOULD SOMETIMES CONTAIN ITEMS NOT TO OUR
LIKING. BUT WE DID FEEL WE HAD A RIGHT TO COMPLAIN THAT ONE IMPORTANT
FACET OF US FOREIGN POLICY, ITS POLICY ON KOREA,WAS INTERPRETED
TO THE MALAGASY POPULATION SOLELY BY STATEMENTS OF THE NORTH
KOREAN AMBASSADOR, WHICH WERE THEN REPEATED BY OFFICIAL AND

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

UNOFFICIAL MEDIA.

3. I ASKED THE MINISTER TO TAKE CAREFUL NOTE THAT I WAS IN NO WAY QUESTIONING MADAGASCAR'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NORTH KOREA, WHICH WAS ITS OWN BUSINESS AND NO ONE ELSE'S. HOWEVER, I THOUGHT THAT SUCH FLAGRANT MISINTERPRETATION OF US POLICY, GRATUITOUSLY MADE BY A HOSTILE CHIEF OF MISSION AND WHICH THEN BECAME THE ONLY INTERPRETATION AVAILABLE TO THE MALAGASY POPULATION, WERE DEFINITELY AND LEGITIMATELY OF CONCERN TO US. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS GLAD TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH HIM RATHER THAN WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH WAS MY NORMAL CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADAGASCAR AND WITH WHOM I HAD TAKEN UP THIS SUBJECT IN THE PAST.I THEN GAVE HIM FOR HIS INFORMATION A COPY OF THE NOTE I HAD SENT LAST DECEMBER ON THIS SUBJECT(REF C).

4.THE MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED MY RIGHT TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER BUT THEN LAMELY ADDED THAT PRESS CONFERENCES SUCH AS THOSE OF THE NORTH KOREANS, WERE NORMALLY REPORTED BY THE MEDIA AND THERE WAS LITTLE THAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. I DID NOT PRESS THE POINT BUT SAID THAT I HOPED SOMEDAY TO SEE THE US POLICY ON KOREA EXPLAINED TO THE MALAGASY POPULATION IN US TERMS,OR AT LEAST IN FRIENDLY OR OBJEC-TIVE TERMS.

5. THE MINISTER DODGED MY LAST REMARK BY SAYING HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF THE US AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANTANA 00888 191329Z POSS DUPE

NORTH KOREA ON THE SUBJECT OF REUNIFICATION. PAO RAZI AND I EMPHAS-IZED THE DIFFERENCES REFERRED TO IN OUR NOTE, NAMELY THAT WE INSISTED THAT SOUTH KOREA BE INCLUDED IN ANY TALKS ON KOREA'S FUTURE WHEREAS NORTH KOREA REFUSED TO TALK TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA,EVEN WHILE INSISTING THAT REUNIFICATION CONCERNED ONLY THE KOREANS AND NO OUTSIDERS.THE US WAS ALL FOR REUNI-FICATION ON THE BASIS OF FREE ELECTIONS. WHEN RUPHIN ASKED ABOUT US BASES IN SOUTH KOREA WE REPLIED THAT THEY WERE THERE TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE 1950 INVASION FROM THE NORTH, WHICH WE HAD REASON TO FEAR SINCE THE SAME MEN WHO HAD LAUNCHED IT WERE STILL IN POWER NOW IN PYONGYANG. THE DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS IN THE SOUTH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE SAME REASON THE FRENCH HAD BUILT THE MAGINOT LINE AFTER WWI BUT WE HOPED THAT THEY WOULD BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR PURPOSE THAN THE FRENCH PROJECT HAD BEEN.

6. THE MINISTER HAD LITTLE TO SAY IN REPLY TO OUR EXPLANANTIONS AND WE TOOK OUR LEAVE SHORTLY THEREAFTER. OTHER SUBJECTS WHICH WE COVERED DURING OUR HOUR LONG TALK WERE POSSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER OR ONE OF HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES GOING TO THE US ON AN IV GRANT AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER IN ANTANANARIVO COULD MAKE TO THE INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY. WE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE READY TO HELP IN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

ANY APPROPRIATE WAY, PARTICULARLY AS NO US NEWS SERVICE WERE
AVAILABLE IN MADAGASCAR. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE MALAGASY
PEOPLE WELL INFORMED ON THE US AND WANTED TO BE SURE THAT
IF THEY WEREN'T IT WOULD NOT BE THROUGH ANY LACK OF EFFECTIVE
CONTRIBUTION ON OUR PART.
BARRETT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANTANA00888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780214-0218
Format: TEL
From: ANTANANARIVO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780547/aaaabneu.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9cd9309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2656816
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH KOREAN ATTACKS ON US
TAGS: PDIP, PBOR, SOPN, MA, KN, US, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9cd9309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014